

Lucy Morehead Detraz Collection

S357
1806-1903
1folder

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division
Indiana State Library

Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, February 2014

Biographical Note:

Lucy Morerod Detraz was born in Vevay, Switzerland County, on October 11, 1806 and died in her 97th year, on May 18, 1903. She was the 5th white child born in Vevay. Her family spoke French. Her father was Jean Daniel Morerod and her mother was Antoinette Dufour. They came with 17 people from Lausanne, Canton De Vaud, Switzerland, in 1801. Most of these French Swiss were Presbyterians.

Source:
Information Found within Collection

Scope and Content:

This 11-page biography is hand-written in ink and enclosed in a cardboard folder.

The author refers to Lucy Morerod Detraz as Aunt Lucy. She tells that when the group of French-speaking Swiss people stopped in Lexington, Kentucky, Jean Daniel Morerod married Antoinette DeFour, in 1803. At their cabin in Vevay, her mother made straw hats which her father sold in Cincinnati for \$2.50 or \$3.00. Lucy remembered the war of 1812 "when the Indians were promised five dollars by the British for every American scalp they secured." When the Indians learned that the family spoke French, they were friendly.

The famous Methodist preacher, Lorenzo Dow spoke in Vevay twice, and made an impression on Lucy, who was "accustomed to the rigid rules of the Presbyterian faith."

Lucy married Benjamin Detraz in 1827 when she was 21 years old. Her husband died an accidental death, and left Lucy a young widow. She had a daughter named Antoinette. Lucy could speak French and English. She read her French Bible faithfully. She had little formal education. In the last years of her life, she was deaf. Lucy was a vegetarian and attributed her long life to avoiding meats and pastry. She was never on a train. She lived her entire life in Vevay.

The final paragraph states: "As we gather up these scattering threads of history and we are there in a memorial web this centennial year, we are convinced they are not dreams but realities that marked many days between sunrise and sunset of the 18th century."

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Collection Inventory Folder Listing:

Mrs. Lucy Morerod Detraz biography

Collection Information:

Size of Collection:	1 folder.
Collection Dates:	1806-1903
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